

**AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION**

Please amend the specification, as follows:

Please add the following paragraph, at page 3, between the first and second full paragraphs:

The present invention also relates to a ligand-bonded complex comprising a microparticle directly or indirectly bonded to at least two ligands, the ligands having an affinity for both a free target and a non-free target so that the free target can be recognized by the ligands at an equivalent level as the non-free target when not bound to the microparticle, said at least two ligands having a dissociation constant with the free target and non-free target of at least about  $E-8$  (M), said at least two ligands are bound to a surface of the microparticle forming a ligand-bonded complex having increased affinity to the non-free target, the increased affinity of the ligand-bonded complex allowing specific binding of the ligand-bonded complex to a non-free target in the presence of both a non-free target and a free target.